

MINUTES

DEKALB COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD

Monday, May 5, 2025 @ 8:00 A.M.

CONVENED: 8:00 A.M.

ROLL CALL:

Member Present:

In Person: Ron Dicke, Joe Dunn, Kent Likes, Mark Olivero, Kevin Likes

Telephonically:

By Video:

Members Absent:

Public in Attendance:

AGENDA:

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

_____Kent_____ made a motion to approve minutes of February 10, 2025 ____Joe____seconded.
Motion passed.

I. QUARTERLY UPDATE

- a. **Review Reimbursement Report.** This Reports is for the 1st Quarter of 2025. The Reimbursement is up this quarter since we now receive benefits for the Attorneys. It will probably be over 100, 000 each quarter going forward with the additional benefits. Ron made a motion to approve the Reimbursement Report and Joe seconded. Motion passed.
- b. **Review Title IV-E Funds.** Reviewed the Reimbursements and Title IV-E Funds to date.
- c. **Review Misdemeanor Data Collection Grant.** There is a map of the counties that are currently participating in the data collection (11 counties) and the additional counties (11 counties) that have submitted applications for the Misdemeanor Reimbursement program. Once selected, the counties must use the indigency form that was created by the office of judicial administration. Mark reached out to the State to see if it would help if we started to use the form now. The CCAA is happy with our data collection. Our County will be happy if we get accepted and the program will last 5 years.
Joe asked what the collection involves. Mark explained that they want to know all the details of the case. Info about the initial hearing, pre-trial release conditions and details throughout the case and sentencing. We are paid for this data collection. The CCAA reimburses us 15% of Sarah's Salayr/Benefits each quarter.

II. OTHER MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

- a. **Misdemeanor Pilot program update.** Only 12 counties will be chosen. It is anticipated that the Commission will select the pilot participants at the June meeting. Not sure if the data collection was offered to all counties.
- b. **Axon Cloud Storage.** The Prosecutor has a shared drive for Discovery. It is a lot of work because files must be unzipped and this is time consuming. The Prosecutor is out of storage and needs more space. A new server will cost between 70 and 90 thousand dollars. And with the amount of data to store a new server would only work for about 3 years. There are a lot more videos and body cams now. The Prosecutor looked into Axon and it will cost their office about \$80,000 for a 5-year period. Axon offers cloud based and unlimited storage. It also has a lot of tools that can benefit our office. It has AI and will create a transcript. We went to Council for approval. Cost is based on how many licenses you purchase. We are getting 10 licenses. We have 13 people on staff, but a few of the attorneys can share a license or access discovery in the office. Our cost will be about \$67,000 for a 5-year period and we will get 40% reimbursement on this. We will start using this program in June and we will be training in May to prepare for this. Until old cases clear out, we will still be using the old system as well. This will be a huge time saver for our department.
- c. **New Statutory Requirements for Public Meeting** We do have an open-door policy but we are not required to live stream. Kevin stated that Community Corrections has a big board, and the consensus is that they do have to live stream. Worried that it will thwart open conversation because sometimes the convos are heated. Can see getting some backlash on the amount of money spent, however they do have a lot of funding.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Ron asked how the new judge is working out. It was stated that things are going good and there have been some changes in procedures. Judge Jessup spent time observing Judge Brown to see how things operated. Has been fair in his decisions.
- Kevin stated that we have 2 murder cases right now. He also stated that penalties are being moved up for drug cases and habituals.
- Mark stated that the county is being tougher on sex offender violations.
- Twice a year we have staff meeting to keep informed.
- We have had a lot of FTA's (Failure to Appear) and warrants. Then they are issued larger Bonds.
- Joe stated that he has found that people do better with reminder calls. It was stated that Allen County does reminder calls, and Dekalb Community Corrections does a reminder if the defendant is on pretrial release. They also use SCRAM and CRAM to monitor defendants.
- Community Corrections also has a new program to stop recidivism. They have a full-time person to assist and reacclimate back into society and deal with the underlying conditions that got them in trouble. This is all Post Conviction. Dekalb County also has several foundations in the area to assist.
- Community Corrections also run Change Academy and Case for students who have been suspended or expelled from school.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 4, 2025, at 8:00 A.M.

ADJOURNED: 8:45 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Bradford